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**Thomas Jefferson to James Monroe, March 27,
1824, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

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Thomas Jefferson to James Monroe

Monticello Mar. 27.24.

Dear Sir

I receive Mr. Livingston's question through you with kindness and answer it without hesitation. He may be assured I have not a spark of unfriendly feeling towards him. In all the earlier scenes of life we thought and acted together. We differed in opinion afterwards on a single point. Each maintained his opinion, as he had a right, and acted on it as he ought. But why brood over a single difference, and forget all our previous harmonies? Difference of opinion was never, with me a motive of separation from a friend. In the trying times of federalism, I never left a friend. Many left me, have since returned, and been recieved at Monticello with as hearty a welcome as he would have been in 1800. The case with Mr. Adams was much stronger. Fortune had disjointed our first affections, and placed us in opposition in every point. This separated us for a while. But on the first intimation thro' a friend, we re-embraced with cordiality, recalled our ancient feelings and dispositions, and every thing was forgotten but our first sympathies. I bear ill will to no human being.

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Another item of your letter fills my heart with thankfulness. With the other competitor for it is an imaginary want, a mere change of lounge, to fill up the vacancies of mind. Ever affectionately and respectfully yours. Th. Jefferson

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